

Appl. No. : 10/820,371
Filed : April 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Additions are underlined; deletions are in ~~strikeout~~ text.

Please cancel Claims 1, 9-13 and 16 without prejudice.

1. Cancelled
2. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17 wherein said first and second shell portions are hinged together near the articulation between the middle and distal phalanges.
3. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17 wherein said first and second shell portions comprise stopping means for preventing movement of said second shell portion beyond a predetermined point.
4. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17 wherein a degree of overlap between said first and second shell portions varies when one of said first and second shell portions is hingedly moved relative to the other of said first and second shell portions.
5. (Original) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 4 wherein said first shell portion partially extends underneath said second shell portion.
8. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17 further comprising a cuff portion surrounding the wrist, said cuff portion having a plurality of padded elements positioned around at least a portion of the circumference of said cuff portion and defining a peripheral forearm protector, each said padded element partially overlapping an adjacent padded element.
- 9-16. Cancelled
17. (Currently Amended) A hockey glove for enclosing a human wrist and hand, the hand including a dorsal side, a palm side, four fingers and one thumb having a dorsal side, an inner side, a middle phalanx, a distal phalanx and an articulation between the middle and distal phalanges, said hockey glove including a hand-receiving portion comprising:
 - (a) a palm side facing the palm side of the hand;
 - (b) a dorsal side facing the dorsal side of the hand, said dorsal side of said hand-receiving portion having a padded surface;

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(c) finger sheaths receiving the four fingers of the hand, wherein each of the finger sheaths receiving the four fingers of the hand comprise a plurality of thick foam segments disposed on the dorsal side of the finger sheath; and

(d) a thumb-receiving portion receiving the thumb of the hand, said thumb-receiving portion having a rigid thumb shell covering at least in part the dorsal side of the thumb, said rigid thumb shell having first and second shell portions that partially overlap one another, said first shell portion covering at least partially the middle phalanx of the thumb, said second shell portion covering at least partially the distal phalanx of the thumb, said first shell portion being hinged to said second shell portion.

18. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 20, characterized in that only the thumb-receiving portion comprises a plurality of hinged rigid shell portions, and none of the remaining finger sheaths includes a plurality of hinged rigid shell portions.

19. (Currently Amended) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17, wherein the first shell portion is elongate and comprises first and second ends, a top portion, and side portions depending from the top portion, and the top and side portions each extend the entire distance between and terminate at the ends.

20. (Previously Presented) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 19, wherein a first opening of the first shell portion is defined at the first end and has a first opening center axis, and a second opening of the first shell is defined at the second end and has a second opening center axis, and the first opening center axis is not parallel to the second opening center axis.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) The hockey glove as defined in Claim 17 additionally comprising a cuff portion surrounding a wrist portion of the glove, wherein a first movable joint is provided between the cuff portion and the first shell portion, and a second movable joint is provided between the first and second shell portions.

22. (New) A pair of protective sports gloves comprising the glove of Claim 17 and a second glove, each of the gloves comprising a palm side and a dorsal side, the dorsal side comprising a plurality of padding segments, wherein more padding is provided at or adjacent the dorsal side of the first glove than is provided at or adjacent the dorsal side of the second glove.

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23. (New) The glove of Claim 17, wherein the thumb skeleton is oriented at an angle of about 30-40° relative to the palm.

24. (New) The glove of Claim 23 additionally comprising a padded cuff, and the cuff is wider along the dorsal side of the glove than on the palm side of the glove.

25. (New) The glove of Claim 24, wherein a reinforcing strip of material is disposed on the palm, and the reinforcing strip is oriented so that when the glove is closed about a stick, the reinforcing strip extends generally parallel to the stick.

26. (New) A pair of protective sports gloves comprising the glove of Claim 17 and a second glove, each of the gloves comprising a palm side and a dorsal side, and a plurality of finger gussets adapted to accommodate the wearer's fingers, wherein at least one of the finger gussets of the second glove is configured to accommodate more than one of the wearer's fingers.

27. (New) A pair of protective sports gloves as in Claim 26, wherein the second glove has one less finger gusset than the first glove.

28. (New) A pair of protective sports gloves comprising the glove of Claim 17 and a second glove, each of the gloves comprising a palm side and a dorsal side, wherein the gloves are not symmetrical to one another.

29. (New) The glove of Claim 17, wherein the shell portions of the rigid thumb shell are adapted to articulate between a closed position and an open position, and the thumb shell comprises locking means for preventing rotation of the shell portions in an open direction beyond the open position.

30. (New) The glove of Claim 29, wherein the locking means comprises a notch formed in the first shell portion, wherein the first shell portion has an extending member, and the extending member is overlapped by at least a portion of the second shell portion, and wherein outer surfaces of the shell portions are substantially flush with one another when the shell portions are in the open position.

31. (New) The glove of Claim 29, wherein the locking means comprises a ridge formed on the first shell portion, and wherein outer surfaces of the shell portions are substantially flush with one another when the shell portions are in the open position.